



August 30, 2006

ADAM W. HERBERT
PRESIDENT

The Honorable Tom Coburn
Chairman
Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management Government
Information, and International Security
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-3604

Dear Senator Coburn:

Thank you for contacting Indiana University to learn more about the relationship between IU and the federal government.

Indiana University has enjoyed collaborations with the federal government for decades. Our Department of Central Eurasian Studies, for instance, began as an Army Specialized Training Program during World War II. The primary goal was to assist the federal government in language and culture training for servicemen. IU's expertise in this field continues to the present day.

The capacity to train and equip soldiers fighting overseas is but one set of resources Indiana University can offer to our national security. Recently, the Indiana University School of Medicine was selected to manage the National Institutes of Health's National Gene Vector Laboratories Program (NGVL). This level of investment on the part of the federal government is indicative of the high standards IU maintains for its academic and research endeavors.

While Indiana University received approximately \$227 million in competitive, federally-sponsored contracts and grants last year, its earmarked requests and awards have been relatively modest. Currently, IU is working to identify federal agencies with specific needs that match the expertise of its faculty. The research and training needs of the agencies will always exist. Indiana University prefers to contract with the agencies, utilizing discretionary monies in their operating budgets, for research and training designed specifically to meet their needs.

During the past decade, earmarked funds have assisted Indiana University in its efforts to purchase research equipment and develop institutes and centers that maximize our research potential. These dollars have enabled us to respond to specific needs identified by the agencies or members of Congress who have requested these earmarks.

Since the year 2000, IU has received nearly \$1 billion in federal research support. We are extremely proud that the efforts of our research faculty have

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contributed to the quality of services offered by the Federal Government and have significantly improved the lives of United States citizens. We are proud of the many contributions made by Indiana University and all institutions of higher education who receive federal dollars.

Indiana University coordinates its activities with national higher education groups—such as the American Association of Universities and the National Association of State and Land-Grant Universities and Colleges—to shape federal policies related to public higher education. In addition, IU partners with other universities to develop and submit joint proposals for research funding. To date, none of these partners has had a policy that would prohibit them from accepting earmarked funds.

Up until April 1, 2005, IU contracted with a Washington lobbying firm. That contract was not renewed. Instead, IU opened a one-person office in the Hall of States Building. This office handles all constituent requests received by the Indiana Congressional Delegation, information needed by our members and arranging expert testimony by our faculty. Having our own office and staff member in Washington works much better for IU than contracting with a lobbying firm whose main interests are pursuing earmarked funds. We do have a small contract (\$24,000) with a Washington-based firm, which is for assistance in developing newsletters and other communication projects, as well as joint research projects with other universities.

Indiana University stands ready to assist the Federal Government in its efforts to defend the United States from terrorist attacks, identify life-saving medical advances and improve the quality of math and science education for our nations students. It is our feeling that without federal earmarks, we would not have the high quality faculty and research infrastructure that is now in place and assisting Federal Agencies combating these issues.

Thank you again, Senator Coburn, for your interest in Indiana University. When your travels bring you to Indiana, I would be honored to give you a tour of our beautiful campus and provide you with opportunities to speak directly with some of our top researchers.

Sincerely,



AWH:mlr

bcc: Tom Healy
Doug Wasitis